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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: MARK E. ZAPPI, ET AL.

ART UNIT: 1724

SERIAL NO.: 09/837,189

EXAMINER: CINTINS, I.C.

FILING DATE: APRIL 19, 2001

FOR: ON-SITE BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF CONTAMINATED FLUIDS

RESPONSE

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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SIR:

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action dated June 11, 2002, entry of the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Willett et al. (U.S. Patent 5,271,691) in view of Wieser-Linhart (U.S. Patent 5,762,662).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention is drawn to a method for treating a contaminated fluid comprising the steps of packing a column with a cellulose-based material, passing the contaminated fluid through the packed column, where the contaminants are adsorbed onto the cellulose-based material and when the cellulose-based material is spent, removing the spent cellulose-based